The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL to

SERGEANT JAMES P. HACKETT

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For heroic achievement while serving as a Radar Chief with Headquarters Battery, Eleventh Marines, First Marine Division in connection with combat operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam. During the early morning hours of 6 January 1970, First Support Base Ross came under a vicious ground attack from North Vietnamese Army sappers utilizing grenades and satchel charges and supported by mortar fire. During the initial moments of the assault, the radar tent became a target for concentrated hostile fire and Sergeant Hackett, along with another Marine, was wounded. Observing that his companion was fully incapacited, he fearlessly carried the casualty across the fire-swept terrain to the marginal safety of a bunker, then, aware of the necessity to provide covering fire for the remaining radar operators, he moved about the hazardous area to ensure that adjacent bunkers were fully supplied with weapons and ammunition. While thus engaged, Sergeant Hackett observed an enemy soldier hurl a grenade at the radio antenna and, resolutely maintaining his exposed position, threw a hand grenade back at the enemy soldier's position and killed the man before he could cause any further damage. Returning to his own bunker, he directed a vigorous defense of the base until the attack was repulsed. By his courage, aggressive fighting spirit, and loyal devotion to duty at great personal risk, Sergeant Hackett inspired all who observed him and upheld the finest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service."

The Combat Distinguishing Device is authorized.

FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,

Wm K Jones

WILLIAM K. JONES
LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U. S. MARINE CORPS
COMMANDING GENERAL, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC